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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 18, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

URGENT NEED FOR CORONAVIRUS RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in calling for immediate action on COVID relief.

It is an outrage that Senate Republicans and the impeached President's administration are more focused on undermining our election integrity and faith in our democracy rather than delivering relief to millions of Americans who are struggling right now.

With over 20 million unemployed and more than 8 million having fallen into poverty, recurring monthly payments are desperately needed to protect the American people from further harm and loss.

Due to the lack of Federal commitment and funding, the maximum amount a worker in my district gets on unemployment is \$362 a week, Mr. Speaker; \$962 under the first stimulus payment. So now you are asking workers, our families, our neighbors, to live with \$362 a week. Not anyone here could survive on that.

Due to the uncontrolled spread of the coronavirus, new stay-at-home orders and business restrictions are necessary to protect our public health.

But we must couple this with orders with strong, recurring Federal support, putting money directly into the pockets of Americans, so they can actually afford to stay home, and support our local governments and businesses on the brink of collapse without more stimulus.

This pandemic has also made clear the need of guaranteeing access to clean water to our neighbors.

Washing one's hands is crucial to preventing illness and spread. We need to treat water as a human right, and ban water shutoffs nationwide, and ensure that every American has what they need to protect themselves during this pandemic.

So, Mr. Speaker, sending stimulus checks, supporting State and local governments, small businesses, and preventing water shutoffs are some of the first steps we must take to not only control the spread of this coronavirus but to recover from its devastation.

I urge my Republican colleagues to please join me in taking urgent action.

RECOGNIZING PERSONNEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, many of us know that the House could not function without the professional non-partisan personnel who ensure that we can do our job. We do at times as an institution pause and thank them, but now it is time for me to do it personally. I thank them for their commitment, dedication, and their hard work.

It would be difficult to start without mentioning the Capitol Police. They are here 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Since my time here, some have fallen in the line of duty, others injured protecting those placed in their care. These are only the events that I know. I can only imagine the stories that they could tell. Thank you.

I owe thanks to the Office of the Attending Physician. This concierge service helps us stay healthy and keeps us informed on how this job affects our health. There have been many times when I have watched them scramble to attend to the health needs of a Member or one of our visitors.

In the Army we are fond of saying the Army moves on its stomach. So does the House of Representatives. We and our guests can find food in numerous locations. This morning, I picked up my breakfast right here in the basement of the Capitol. Lunch, who knows, but I do not fret that I will not be able to find something.

When we depart for the day, the cleaning crew comes in. They are long gone by the time most of us arrive the next day.

Mail and newspapers are dropped off by couriers. Lightbulbs are replaced. Pictures are hung up and, in my case, taken down. Photos are taken of us and our guests in major events.

Audiovisual connectivity for Chamber and Committee activities, so the public can observe our deliberations, is ensured. And, again, as I observe this morning, the electronic voting system was turned on and checked.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The recorder takes down every word, sometimes in the heat of a rhetorical exchange, which eventually helps the Chamber sort out the claims, reconcile them, and return to business.

I also want to point out the friendly faces and voices from the Office of the Clerk of the House. Many of them are right in front of me, Mr. Speaker. These nonpartisan employees record, file, keep in order, track time, and help the Speaker or Speaker pro tempore identify Members and call on them.

The wizard of the House is the Parliamentarian and his staff. I have known four over my career. They are the keeper of the Jeffersonian rules and precedents. Any Member who is smart and up to some trickery best run their idea by the Parliamentarian. They will not only provide great counsel, but will keep the discussion confidential.

My thanks go to the Office of Member Services. They processed me in and are now processing me out. They are our office of human resources and, as with everything, as time passes, so do your needs. I have checked with them often over the years, and that has helped prepare for my departure.

Also assisting me is the Office of House Ethics. The last thing I want to do is screw something up as I walk out the door. They, too, are 24/7 and only a phone call away.

Any time you create a list, you risk forgetting someone or some office. If I have done so, please forgive me. It has been a great ride, and the nonpartisan professional staff who cover the everyday activities deserve my thanks and, with that, I thank you.

THE NATION CONTINUES TO FACE AN INCREASINGLY DEADLY PANDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, as we move into the last weeks of 2020, as we move into a dark and uncertain winter, our Nation continues to face an increasingly deadly pandemic. Grief, economic hardship, and anxiety can be felt in every corner of our country.

Despite the challenges that face our Nation, the past few weeks have seen millions of Americans stand up and make their voices heard.

And millions of Americans have chosen unity over division, stability over chaos, and looked forward to a future filled with faith and hope for a brighter world.

That world requires something from each and every one of us—we all must do our part. We all have a role to play in transforming our aspirations into real, effective progress.

Over the last 2 years, I have heard from thousands of families who have called on my office in a moment of need; a grandparent whose Social Security checks just simply stopped coming; a veteran who desperately needed

an appointment at the VA hospital; a small business that required assistance to keep their employees paid during this pandemic.

For many of these people, their call to my office may have been the first time that they have ever interacted with a government official. It may be the first time that they have ever asked their government for help.

Each and every day, we are called upon to serve our communities in Congress. They are trusting us to do everything that we can to advocate on their behalf.

We must never lose sight of that faith and that trust that they placed in us.

Hardworking families across Georgia, and from around the Nation, understand that the days and the months ahead may be the most important of our lifetime.

And Americans have been very clear. They have asked their leaders to put aside their partisan bickering and focus on American fellowship.

And the mandate that they have given us is one of compassion and cooperation.

It is a mandate to heal fractures and mend their wounds.

It is a mandate to solve problems and protect them.

And it is a mandate to compromise with common sense.

It is a mandate to enact policies that provide every person in this Nation an opportunity to fight for their very own American Dream.

For many years, before I had the honor of serving my community in Congress, I worked as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines, and I shared journeys with people from every corner of our globe and of every color and every creed and of every race and every religion.

Yes, we all come from different backgrounds, and we share different beliefs, and we all belong to different political parties. But what we must understand is that we share a common purpose that transcends partisanship.

We are all uniquely American. We are all far more alike than we are different. We all need to spend time with those that we love, to share our stories with those who make us smile, make us laugh. We all want what is best for our families.

On these journeys across America, I watched first-generation Americans chart a course toward a lifetime of new and exciting experiences.

And I watched men and women in uniform fly home to surprise their young children, their mothers who have been worried sick, their brothers who haven't seen their best friend in years.

I have watched parents beam with pride as they reunited with their new college graduate. After decades of hard work, they knew, with faith and with certainty, that the days of their children would be better than their own.

This is the America that our constituents sent us here to fight for and

sent us here to lead; to preserve the ideas that this Nation was founded upon; to protect the values that must endure long after every single one of us in this Chamber is gone.

Our strength as a Nation has always been on our ability to come together to address America's greatest challenges, which we are in right now. And that is the opportunity that we have in this very moment.

And when we look back at this time in years to come, I pray that we can all take pride in our response; that we fought against all those who seek to sow the seeds of hatred and division—and for all those rooted in peace and prosperity; that we fought to strengthen our fellow Americans with love and with unity; that we fought for progress alongside our brothers and sisters of this great Nation with unshakeable resolve; that we fought for a future that we can all believe in.

RECOGNIZING DANE HAYGOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mayor Dane Haygood of Daphne, who recently retired after 8 successful years in office.

The Jubilee City is truly a jewel of southwest Alabama, and as Baldwin County has experienced the fastest growth in Alabama in recent years, Daphne has led the way. No city could experience such rapid growth while retaining its sense of community without good stewardship, and Mayor Haygood deserves a tremendous amount of credit for his 8 years of steady leadership.

With Mayor Haygood at the helm, Daphne was one of the chief beneficiaries of the past decade of economic expansion in our region.

Mayor Haygood can leave office knowing that Daphne is well positioned to continue on the path to prosperity. I congratulate Mayor Haygood and his family, and I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for them in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING DAVID BAKER

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mayor David Baker of Semmes on his many years of service. Mayor Baker recently left the mayoral office after a distinguished and diverse history of service to his community.

Since Mayor Baker began serving as city councilman for Semmes in 2011, he has always been a highly visible and accessible public servant. While in office, Mayor Baker has overseen a period of growth and annexation, and Semmes is well prepared to continue its growth and meet new challenges.

A proud graduate of the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Mayor Baker retired as an officer in the United States Army after 20 years of honorable service. Since becoming an educator in 2003, countless high school students in the community have benefited from his wise instruction.